



Frederick County Sustainability Commission
Meeting Minutes for
8/16/17



FCSC Attendees: Tom Anderson, Kathy Kinsey, Tim Jones, Jennifer Bird, Ron Kaltenbaugh, Elizabeth Peterson, Kevin Sellner, Jane Denniston, Mike Swanson, Joe Richardson

Rachel Armistead, John Ferri (via telephone)

OSER: Shannon Moore, Jeremy Joiner, Lisa Orr, Basit Bangash

Public: Hillary Varnadore, Samantha Hogan, Ellis Burrell, Sam Norris, Karen Russell, Kim Campbell, Mike Paone, Dana French, Alan Feinberg, Tim Goodfellow

I. Welcome and Introductions

1. The Chair (Ron Kaltenbaugh) opened the meeting and welcomed all FCSC members and guests.

II. Vice Chair items

1. Approval of July Meeting Minutes.

1. Approval of July Meeting Minutes with one edit. Tom made a motion to accept the minutes. Kevin seconded the motion. Two abstentions.
2. FCSC New Resolution for 2017/2018
 - a. Incorporated comments from John F and from CE into the draft.
 - b. Question about whether the County Council should approve the updated resolution. Shannon will provide the draft resolution to the County Attorney's Office.

III. STAR Communities

A. Guest Speaker: Hillary Varnadore

1. Hillary is the Executive Director of STAR Communities.
2. STAR is creating a nationwide framework for assessing sustainable communities.

B. Set Goals, Measure Progress, Improve your Community

1. 2007: Concept for STAR revealed
2. 2012: STAR Version 1.0 released
3. 24 million people live in certified communities
4. 120 million people live in communities using STAR

C. STAR 2.0 Framework based on:

1. Built environment
 2. Climate and energy
 3. Economy and jobs
 4. Education, arts, and community
 5. Equity and empowerment
 6. Health and safety
 7. Natural systems
- a. Communities integrate STAR strategies into plans and policies
 - b. Progress in objectives is measured by outcomes and actions
 - c. Worksheets available to identify strategies

D. Implementation

1. identify data gaps
2. Identify areas where not meeting goals
3. Create agendas to move forward
4. Prioritize Investments with stakeholders

F. Communicate Results

1. Let constituents know how progress is moving forward

G. Certification

1. First steps are training, working through forms, asking questions of STAR staff
2. Technical Guide to the Rating System
 - a. Methodology guide, to provide information for each piece of the framework

H. Indicators

1. 21 metrics available
2. Indicator page on the STAR Website walks through indicators and allows data to be available to the public.
3. Can view all participating communities, compare side by side, view all aggregate data.
4. FCSC can initiate indicator list and enter data on the website to begin the process

I. Climate and Energy Framework (as an example)

1. Several indicators in the worksheet
2. List of actions – determine if we have initiated this action, or need to begin work

J. Options for Commission involvement

1. Developing indicators and collecting data
2. Choose pieces of the framework to focus on
3. Facilitate links to the outside world, bring in people with different viewpoints and expertise

4. Bringing stakeholders together to close gaps that have been identified
5. There are framework topics that are not areas of FCSC expertise. We could facilitate reaching out to other departments and commissions to get their input in these areas.

IV. PC-44 Grid of the Future Overview

- A. Out of the PEPCO/Exelon merger
- B. Public process to look at the energy grid in MD and prepare for the future

V. OSER and Livable Frederick Updates

- A. Recently held Storm Sewer System Permit workshop for the Municipalities
 1. Creating restoration projects
- B. In the Streets Transit Booth upcoming
- C. Upcoming Tree ID workshop
- D. Recent meeting on EV infrastructure
 1. Basit is looking at costs for infrastructure, as requested by the Public Works Division
- E. PACE – meeting scheduled tomorrow to discuss the launch of the PACE program
- F. Creek Releaf – 210 acres of applications. Working with landowners to evaluate the sites

VI. Commission Members Items of Interest

Joe – Very interested in being the first PACE participant. Compost workgroup is pushing forward a path for legislation for a compost facility within the County.

Tim – Do we have any plans for a booth at the Great Frederick Fair? No, we no longer have a booth.

Tom – Volunteered at the National Envirothon.

Kevin – Monocacy River Plan to be presented to the Planning Commission on September 13. Kevin will meet with the County and stakeholders on the dredging of Lake Linganore.

Jane - International treaty to reduce mercury pollution initiating today.

Rachel – Still trying to get Tiny House approved. Difficulties experienced with County Zoning regulations that prevent farmers from adding family homes to their land.

Ron – Making climate presentation at various organizations.

Jenn – Attended Middletown Green Team meeting to discuss pollinator habitat.

Public Comments

Ellis Burress – member of the Solid Waste Steering Committee – the County is currently working on compost initiatives. Frederick Zero Waste Alliance participating in International Zero Waste conference. Workshop proposed locally.

Public comment – will STAR help with Livable Frederick?

Action Items:

8-18-16. Choose water quality/watershed indicators to help develop sustainability goals.

10-10-15. FCSC committees: Invite community volunteers to join.

10-8-15. County Green Teams: Ron has assembled a comprehensive list that includes municipalities with teams and contact information shown.

Adjournment: Following a motion, which was seconded and unanimously approved, the meeting was adjourned at 5:04 pm.